

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1912.

PROSPECTS OF PRIMARY LEGISLATION.

Bills for legalizing primary elections have been introduced in both branches of the Legislature. There is nothing unusual in this. In fact, the same thing has occurred, if we mistake not, at every session in the past dozen years. Only once, however, has any such bill come to a vote in either house. That was at the session of 1904, when both the Senate and the House gave emphatic approval to a primary measure which only failed of enactment by the expiration of the session before the Senate had voted upon some amendments which had been tacked on in the House. Though bills with a like object have been introduced regularly at every session since, they have all peacefully and silently expired on the calendars at the wind up. There are indications that a determined effort will be made at this session to force the matter to an issue. The sponsors of these measures, and other members who are interested in the subject, have ample weight to drive the question to a decision, if they will exert their influence in concert.

There have been many who doubted the general policy of making nominations by primary, and at times we have not been without our misgivings. But, whatever may be the opinion of any, it is now apparent to all that this mode of nomination has become the settled policy of the Democratic party of this State. Before the assembling of several State conventions in recent years, there has been talk of returning to the convention system; but each time the primary has emerged to all appearances stronger than ever in popular favor.

Moreover, there was inserted in the Constitution of Virginia a mandate that the Legislature should provide laws for securing the regularity of primary elections. The only compliance with that provision of the fundamental law was a statute, enacted at the session of 1902-3-4, to the effect that all laws intended to secure the regularity and purity of general elections should, so far as applicable, apply to primary elections. This is admitted on all sides to be wholly inadequate.

What is needed is a specific and comprehensive statute, which will invest primary elections with all of the safeguards which surround the general elections. Nobody can contend with any show of reason that such is now the case. The people of Virginia are entitled to demand as perfect a primary statute as obtains in any of the States.

It is unnecessary at this time to discuss the pending measures in detail. They should, and doubtless will, be threshed over in committees and on the floors of the two houses. The time is ripe for action. Capricious and disingenuous obstructive tactics should not be tolerated. Let the issue be made in both houses and let each member hereafter reckon with his constituents upon the record which he will make.

IF MADE SUPREME TEST, WHAT?

When Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in his rejoinder in the Reichstag to the British Foreign Minister's speech, said in effect, as explanatory of his "clear slate" illustration, that there were still deep scratches which could only be erased by acts proving Great Britain's friendship, it was assumed that he forecast that Germany would apply the test in the matter of bidding for a free hand in respect of German railway interests in Asia Minor. This assumption was entirely natural and logical, and no doubt absolutely correct. The franchises for railway and other exploitation in Asia Minor the Kaiser secured from his "good friend" Abdul Hamid, and the ultimate object of which was to insure a German sphere of influence in the neighborhood of the head of the Persian Gulf, have been of little practical value to Germany, whom British diplomacy, or what not, has been able to checkmate at almost every turn in that quarter.

It would now appear, however, that the German vision not only took in Asia Minor, but ranged far beyond. For there is the best of reasons for believing that Germany is negotiating for the purchase of the Portuguese possessions in Africa. It will be recalled that almost immediately upon the overthrow of the monarchial order in Portugal and the establishment of a republic, the question of the fate of the Portuguese colonies on the Dark Continent was broached. It was confidently predicted that soon or late they would have to be sold in truth, it was pretty generally conceded that from every viewpoint conditions dictated such disposition. But also it was pretty generally conceded that Great Britain could not afford that any other power than herself become the purchaser. More than that, a certain section of the British press

indicated that Great Britain would not permit any other power or powers to become the purchaser or purchasers.

But the issue was not to be allowed to rest there. In a recent interview, Professor Delbruck, the eminent German publicist, not only dispelled the delusion that it was settled, but most significantly threw out the suggestion of a German dream of a great African empire. "In Africa alone," he said, "we see possibilities worth cultivating, but not in British Africa. I am thinking," he continued, "of what seems to me the inevitable and eventual collapse of the Portuguese power in Africa, and a division of the republic's possessions between England and Germany." There would, he doubted not, have been such a division long ago but for British repugnance to German expansion, which has intervened to Germany's disadvantage.

This was significant and prophetic enough in itself, considering the source, but is rendered vastly, not to say ominously, more so by the German press comments it evoked. For example, one semi-official organ boldly declared in so many words that Germany would not have to wait for the collapse of Portuguese power in Africa, nor would it be necessary for her to consult England as to what she might negotiate at Lisbon. Again, the Pan-German conservative organ, the Post, in a lengthy discussion of the professor's "feeler," laid down these dicta: "France has North Africa; Britain dominates South Africa; Germany must now get Central Africa. We must strike now while the iron is hot. Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey should be given an immediate opportunity to prove their words that Britain does not oppose Germany's expansion. Perhaps it may eventually be possible to induce England to cede Rhodesia, and France the remainder of the mutilated Congo. If we in the meantime secure the Portuguese possessions a mighty German empire in Central Africa would then be assured." The most superficial study of the map of South and Central Africa and of the geographical and strategic relations of the Portuguese to the British possessions in those regions will be sufficient to convince any one of ordinary intelligence that Germany's acquisition of the former would place her in position to become a powerful, nay, dangerous, rival of Great Britain's in dominating and directing the destiny of the Dark Continent.

It would afford her several coigns of vantage from which she might be able to force Great Britain's hand to concessions not only as regards the holdings of the latter, but those of France as well. Therefore a question of absorbing interest and one fraught with tremendous possibilities of another "world's season of unrest" is, what will Great Britain do about it should Germany, as now seems probable, make the sale of Portugal's African colonies to her the supreme test of British sincerity?

A MILLIONAIRE FOR A DAY.

There is an old adage to the effect that a fool and his money are soon parted, and there is nothing new about the case of William McDevitt, of Wilkesbarre, Pa. A pink-haired town jester, he was accidentally nominated for county treasurer, but was persuaded to sell his rights for \$2,500. Instead of holding to it, McDevitt decided that he would like to feel like Pierpont Morgan for just one day, and so he chartered a special train for New York, left the mob cheering behind, dined amid the gilt gorgeousness of the Waldorf, saw a good show in his private box, thrust back a cruel policeman who had pushed with a club an old beggar woman in the snow outside of the theatre (beautiful real life melodrama stuff), gave her \$5, rode in a taxi to Shanley's, Rector's and the Friars' Club, returned to the Waldorf, where he purchased a \$30 a night suite for himself, his secretary and his valet. The next morning he left New York with hardly enough money to buy ham and eggs in a war shoe cafe. His luggage was a hand mirror, a pocket comb, a nail file and four toothpicks, all neatly carried in a newspaper. No "grape" for him; no highballs; nothing closer to it than a crab cocktail. He tipped the waiter and then called him back and gave him \$1 more, and the waiter still lives. Then McDevitt pulled out for Wilkesbarre. Along the line he made several speeches, one at Natch Chunk, where he announced his candidacy for the presidency of the United States, and his propensity for throwing money to the winds and squandering all he gets his hands on makes him an altogether appropriate and logical Republican candidate.

There have been many of the same kind as McDevitt, who have thought that the most pleasant sensation is the sensation of spending money on one's self, lavishly and exclusively. This one took thought he was having a good time, but he did not have a one-hundredth part of the satisfaction he would have had had he given a few poor children a 2-cent table d'hôte dinner in a side street cafe. If he had helped some one with his money, spent some of it unselfishly, he would feel much better about it now. If he had stayed in Wilkesbarre and given a big dinner to the people there who have forgotten what a good dinner is like, he would feel much better about it. Money spent so selfishly is worse than wasted. No good and generous impulses came to the surface to move the heart and hand and leave behind pleasant memories of a good thing done. The shattered poppy leaves behind no lingering scent.

ROOSEVELT AND BLAINE.
 Amid the breach between President Taft and his former Warwick, the politician of Oyster Bay, the politicians

in Washington are finding parallels between this yawning chasm and the rivalry of Harrison and Blaine in 1892. Mr. Harrison, as President, had failed to satisfy some of the politicians of his party in the matter of appointments, and Mr. Blaine was among the number. So it is said the affections of Colonel Roosevelt have been alienated from his "Dear Will." Mr. Harrison had stood sponsor for the McKinley tariff bill, which resulted in a Democratic House of Representatives. In like manner, President Taft pronounced the Payne-Aldrich tariff, "the best ever," with a like result. The country was dissatisfied, and the sky was full of portents of Republican discomfiture. So to-day the clouds lower even to the point where they shroud the brows of the President and his advisers in gloom that may fairly be termed impotent.

In 1892 there was a demand in the Republican party for a leader of vim, magnetism and resource, who could breast the oncoming tide of defeat and bear up the fast falling Republican banner.

Now, also there are Republicans who feel that foes without and within their party have already marked the President for political slaughter, and that none other than the only living embodiment of the Big Stick could beat these same foes to anything resembling a frazzle.

These parallel experts, however, do not make allowance for the temperamental differences of these several parties. Mr. Harrison was possessed of a cold nature which did not enlist the devotion of many personal friends and utterly failed to arouse the enthusiasm of the voters.

President Taft, on the other hand, has a glad hand and an expansive smile, both of which have been working with few interruptions since his inauguration. He has many staunch allies and quite a body of friendly supporters among the masses.

Mr. Blaine had been a candidate in 1884, and had lost to Mr. Cleveland by a small and accidental margin. There were many who regretted that he had not been nominated in 1888, and who were not placated by his somewhat tardy, and apparently reluctant, appointment as Secretary of State. He was a superb politician and a statesman of recognized poise and mastery. Besides, he had not forced the nomination of Mr. Harrison. In fact, he felt with a personal pang that it was a mistake. Colonel Roosevelt resorted to unprecedented methods to secure the nomination of the successor whom he had chosen. Every one must see that if the result has been unfortunate, Colonel Roosevelt is the person most to blame. Whether it be that the Colonel has been plagued at his failure to run the Taft administration in some particulars, as has been reported, or whether by an honest mistake of judgment he dictated the nomination of a presidential failure, as some assert, the result is no less creditable to his leadership.

Mr. Blaine, broken in health and spirit, made one last desperate attempt to fulfill his life-long ambition to be President. Colonel Roosevelt has already had his fling and his "corking time," and has gone on record as declaring that his seven years in the office practically constituted the two terms which the people of the country have always recognized as the allowable maximum of presidential service.

If the signs of the times are not all awry it seems certain that The Colonel is less likely to win the nomination than Blaine appeared to be in 1892.

Nevertheless there are many indications that Mr. Harrison's fate of that year will this year be shared by President Taft.

ABOLISH THE UNIT RULE.

Do the Democrats of the nation believe that if Charles F. Murphy can control forty-six delegates from New York, he should be permitted to cast New York's ninety votes as a unit in the Democratic National Convention?

Do they think that if James M. Guffey can control thirty-nine of the Pennsylvania delegates he should be allowed to cast the whole seventy-six votes under the unit rule?

Do these same Democrats feel that if Thomas Taggart can control sixteen delegates from Indiana he should be allowed to cast the thirty votes of Indiana under the unit rule?

Do they think that if Roger Sullivan can control thirty delegates from Illinois he should be allowed to cast the whole fifty-eight votes of that State under the unit rule?

Do they believe that any boss posing as a Democratic and controlling a bare majority of the delegation from his State should be allowed to vote at the delegates from his State?

The unit rule is the evil in each case. Only in Democratic conventions this undemocratic rule is allowed, and at that by the party which stands for home rule and local self-government. No Republican boss can vote all the delegates from his State unless they are willing for him to do so. No Republican State Convention can bind the delegates to vote as a unit. No Republican National Convention would countenance such a rule, even with the consent of a State delegation. Yet Democratic delegates are tied hand and foot by this obnoxious and unreasonable rule.

The New York World makes this timely suggestion:

If Mr. Bryan wishes to make Democratic National Conventions more democratic, if he wishes to make them more responsible to the will of the people, let him begin a campaign to abolish the unit rule. Presidential primaries can wait.

The unit rule seems to have been

especially designed to play into the hands of the boss and the corrupt politician, if it be possible to distinguish one from the other. It should be discontinued at the Baltimore convention.

FORCING STREET CAR LINE EXTENSIONS.

If a bill to be introduced by Senator Featherston, of Lynchburg, becomes law, street car companies will be compelled to extend their lines wherever and whenever requested by possible patrons, where it can be shown that the extension can be operated at merely a reasonable profit. If this showing is made before the State Corporation Commission, and the community can demonstrate that it will support a line, it will get it under the provisions of this measure. Street car companies would be forced to serve "established communities" rather than "sections in which the directors may be interested from a real estate standpoint." In other words, discretion and business judgment as to extending car lines is to be transferred from the street car companies to the State. The patron of the bill pictures a situation in which the officers of a street car company decide to start a new suburb, buy up land in the proposed community and extend their lines to this unsettled place in preference to having it serve an established community.

Such a law would be radical in the extreme. Assuming that the State Corporation Commission under such a law granted an extension of a street car line desired by citizens of a certain community, but deemed unprofitable and unwise by the directors of the street car company, what assurance would the State give to the corporation? Would the State guarantee the interest on the bonds? The principle of this bill seems to involve government ownership; if it does not, the action of the State might be plainly satisfactory. If the State did not guarantee a reasonable profit here, what right would it have to make a private corporation surrender one of its main powers? Would not such a statute deter the investment of private capital in such companies? Would not the ultimate result be the taking over by the State of the street car companies?

Raymond Poincaré, the new Prime Minister of France, is a case of "the poet in politics." But, according to all accounts, he is not poet enough to hurt. Indeed, judging from what the critics have said of the only available examples of his verse, and which are collected under the title "Autumn Nights," if his genius as a statesman and a politician are as great as his poetic genius is less, we are justified in hoping great things for France as the result of his becoming the head of the government.

Voice of the People

A Woman's View of Equal Suffrage.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I read constantly in the papers opinions of men's suffrage and also capital punishment and so on, but I have not seen a word about women's suffrage. I am so averse to women figuring in the subject of modern and white simply write Mr. Hay saying off in the House Bill No. 514, or Senator Martin or Swanson for copy of Senate Bill No. 1596.

The truth is that your correspondent has gotten the militia pay bill mixed up with a bill of which Mr. Hay is the patron, which proposes to reorganize the militia.

Again, as a matter of fact, there is not a single one of the provisions just quoted mentioned in the militia pay bill; and any one who may desire further verification of this statement will simply write Mr. Hay saying off in the House Bill No. 514, or Senator Martin or Swanson for copy of Senate Bill No. 1596.

How absurd; how disgusting, even in the thought of American women drifting down so far beneath the opinions of men, home and heaven.

It is really heartening to me, feminine nature who stands opposing this period of worldly view.

It takes only the mind of a woman to penetrate the future results and realize the standard of true womanhood tumbling to destruction as it were the old walls of a burnt district.

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, there will not be enough remaining of the better judgment to hold up the coming generation in which God would look down with approving smile, giving success and prosperity to the children of men. Wish some of the real learned would inform where in Scripture we can find a text to teach as the right of suffrage.

MRS. J. T. E.

Petersburg.

Says Military Measures Confused.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I notice in your issue of January 10, a communication to your most valuable paper marked "Special to The Times-Dispatch," and signed P. H. McGee, entitled "Hay Discusses the Militia Pay Bill." Your correspondent has evidently gotten two distinct measures mixed up. In the first place, he has a large box of school books, bought from the so-called school list. In the latter part of December, I had to move back to LaCrosse county, entering my children for the last half of the session, beginning January 2, 1912. Again I had to buy expensive books to finish the session, the new books purchased at Lawrenceville having to be laid aside.

Now, sir, this is an infamous shame, and I am so responsible for it. There are twenty different arithmetics now in my house, to say nothing of rhetorics, geographies, etc., etc., too numerous to mention.

If this is the best that the vaunted school system can do, then it is high time this system, falsely so-called, were revised and put upon a basis where the minimum, instead of the maximum, number of books might obtain.

In my opinion, the trouble lies in the fact that there are too many books in each grade, from which teachers have the right or authority to select. The single list, pure and simple, is the only solution.

In some particulars the public school system, as it now operates, is a grotesque force, and sadly needs investigation and revision.

HOLMES CONRAD HARRISON.

LaCrosse.

Help the Hewlett Sufferers.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir,—With reference to the starving birds, I beg leave to say that any of our city friends who wish to help us to save the starving birds may forward any grain or feed to me at Hewlett, Va., and I will be glad to distribute it among the starving birds. Remember, 1 cent's worth of oats may save a bird.

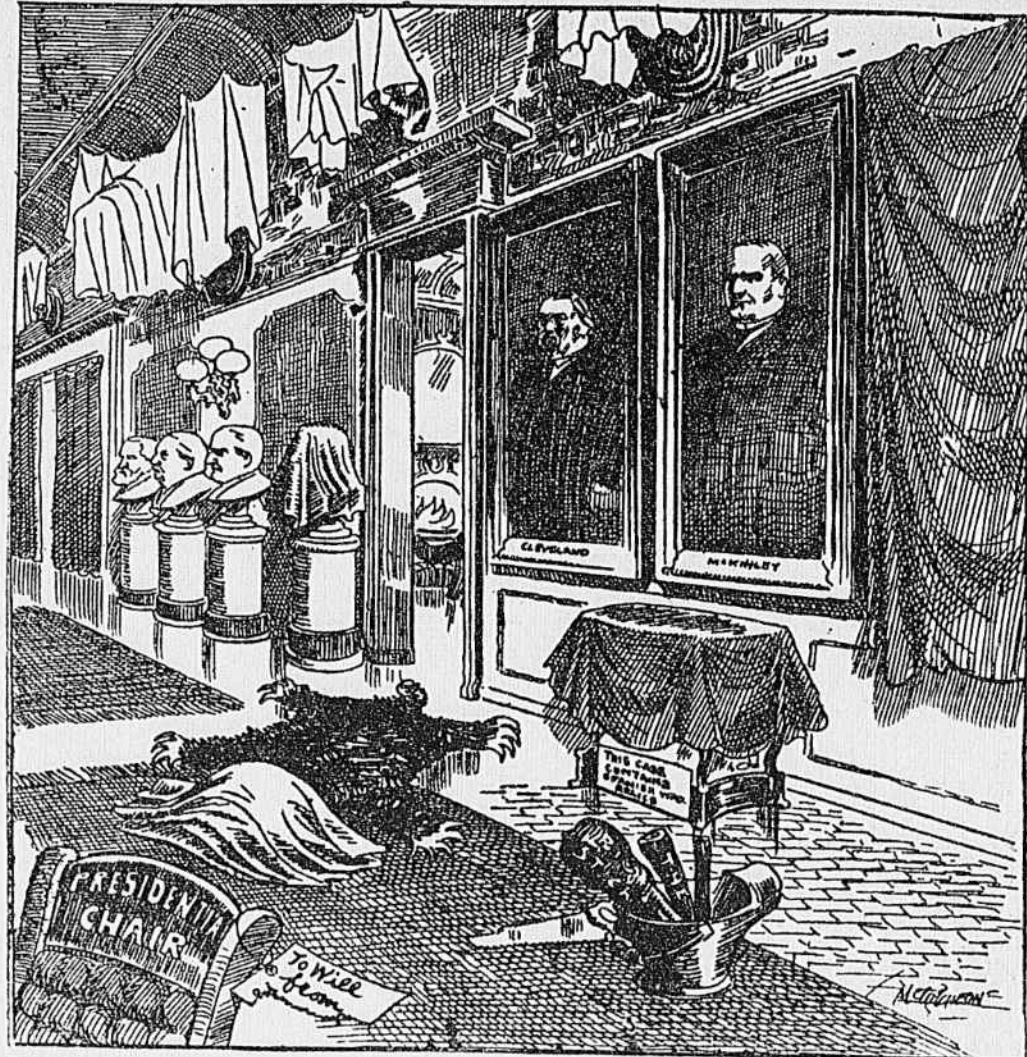
MILPH J. DUKE.

Hewlett.

STRANGE CHANGE IN THE WHITE HOUSE SINCE THE DAYS OF "WILL" AND "THEODORE."

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, By John T. McCutcheon.)



La Marquise de Fontenoy

ROYALTY dislikes being preached at, and has given frequent demonstration of its sentiments in this connection since the late Queen Elizabeth of England, angrily interrupted the prelate in the midst of his discourse, which she considered was getting too personal, by roughly ordering him to "go back to his text." The late Queen Victoria was equally impatient, and during her long reign of more than sixty years there were quite a number of important divines who incurred her wrath by preaching at her when invited to occupy the pulpit in her presence. It did not matter whether she was preached at in terms of loyal commendation or of condemnation. She considered the one in just as execrable taste as the other, as an act of disrespect and of irreverence. Indeed, it was for having offended her in this manner that she vetoed the name of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, of Winchester, as a candidate for the premiership of the day for prebendary to the dignity of Archbishop of Canterbury.

The most recent case of a divine incurring imperial wrath in this connection is the Hungarian Bishop, Chakachia, who in the course of an address last week to a large gathering of women of rank and of wealth, at Budapest, assembled for the purpose of promoting mission work among the poor, went out of his way to roundly apostrophize and denounce the Archduchess, Augustine, wife of the Archduke Joseph, through her mother, a grandchild of Emperor Francis Joseph, for "parading in silk and satin, and wearing picture hats and diamonds," when visiting the poor, when inspecting charitable institutions and when engaged in all those many philanthropic enterprises in which she is interested.

Now there is no kinder hearted woman in existence than Archduchess Augustine. She is not pretentious or egotistical. In fact, she is most simple and unassuming. In her manner and character, and during the brief time that she has chanced since her marriage, all of which she has spent at Budapest, or at one or another of her husband's estates, she has been most generous and selfless to public and private charities, especially to the latter, taking the initiative in innumerable philanthropic enterprises, and winning for herself the most unbounded popularity among the poor and the suffering at Budapest.

While at home and in ordinary life she is very quiet and almost reverently plain in her dress, resembling in this respect her murdered grandmother, Empress Elizabeth, as also the Queens of England and of Norway, the two Czarinas of Russia, and Queen Maria Cristina of Spain, she makes a point of arraying herself with particular splendor when visiting the poor, and her expenditure of money might be stepped. Please note the following:

In the autumn of 1910 I moved my family to Lawrenceville, Brunswick county, from LaCrosse, Wisconsin county, entering my children in the school at that place. I had to buy about \$20 worth of books, although I already had a large box of school books, bought from the so-called school list. In the latter part of December, I had to move back to LaCrosse county, entering my children for the last half of the session, beginning January 2, 1912. Again I had to buy expensive books to finish the session, the new books purchased at Lawrenceville having to be laid aside.

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HOLMES CONRAD HARRISON.

LaCrosse.

ignorance of the true state of affairs, and of the real sentiments among the poor, that is, to say the least, astonishing. Had the attack of the prelate been addressed to any other member of the imperial family, it would have been in questionable taste; but that it should have been aimed at Archduchess Augustine, of all people in the world, has excited a good deal of indignation, as a piece of singularly ill-directed zeal and injustice, which is likely to be resented nowhere more than at Rome.

Archduke Joseph, the husband of Princess Augustine, commands, as general of division, the troops at Budapest, where he resides as the permanent representative of the reigning emperor, Francis Joseph, and, like his father and grandfather and namesakes before him, is far more Hungarian than Austrian, while his wife is, if not de facto, at any rate de facto, the first lady of the land in Hungary. His grandfather, Archduke Joseph, was Palatine of Hungary as long as the late Emperor Francis Joseph, at the same time, it cannot be denied that the present Archduke Joseph, like his father before him, fills, at any rate in a social sense, the role of a French nobleman. One of his sisters is married to the Duke of Orleans, and another is the wife of the head of the princely and ducal house of Thurn and Taxis.

Lord Herbert, who is due in New York to-morrow, from England, on board the Olympic, with Lady Beatrice Herbert, youngest sister of the present Marquise of Anglesey, is the eldest son and heir of the fourth Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, is captain of the Royal Horse Guards, and has an English crack polo player, and a particularly lovely French woman, sister of the late Sir Michael Herbert, who died as British ambassador to the United States. Young Lord Herbert's wife is a French noblewoman, but she ranks as a marquess's daughter, her husband's courtesy title being merely that of baron.

Lord Herbert, like the other members of his house, is blessed with good looks, good manners, and many accomplishments, due, perhaps, to the numerous foreign affiliations of his family. Thus, the seventh Earl of Pembroke married a particularly lovely French woman, sister of that Louise de Querouailles, who was one of the most famous of the favorites of Charles II., and by him the ancestors of the Dukes of Richmond. The eleventh Earl married the only daughter of Simon, Count Woronzoff, who was for so many years Russian ambassador in London; while the late Sir Michael Herbert was only keeping up the family tradition in this respect when he married the star Miss Lillie Wilson, of New York.

Lord Herbert, when his father dies, will inherit the latter's great carpet manufactory business. At the time when the French Protestant weavers were driven from their native land by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and sought refuge in England, a large number of them settled at Wilton. There they prospered, and received a charter from William III., which formed the skilled workmen into a corporate body, prohibiting any person not licensed by the guild from setting up carpet works within ten miles of Wilton. Most of the weavers lived on Lord Pembroke's Wilton House estates. A few years ago Lord Pembroke, finding the business in difficulties, formed a company, in connection with Lord Radnor and Lord Lexington, for assuming control of the industry, which has now become extremely prosperous. Wilton carpets are enjoying world-wide fame, owing to the care with which they are made, each knot of wool being tied separately by there being nearly 500,000 knots to every square yard.

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